

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5681

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

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AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CB

SUBJECT: FRENCH NEWS MEDIA ARTICLES ON SIHANOUK

REF: PEKING 0023

1. ONE OF REPORTS WHICH SIHANOUK STATEMENT (REFTEL) APPEARS DESIGNED TO ANSWER IS APPARENTLY FRENCH RADIO JANUARY 4 NEWS ITEM. ACCORDING TO THIS NEWS BROADCAST, AN AMERICAN SENATOR WHO HAD RECENTLY BEEN IN CHINA HAD BEEN TOLD BY SIHANOUK THAT HE WOULD BE WILLING TO TALK WITH THE GKR -- INCLUDING LON NOL -- IF THREE CONDITIONS WERE FULFILLED:

(A) CORRUPT GKR GENERALS WERE ELIMINATED;

(B) THE VIETNAMESE LEFT THE AREAS OF CAMBODIA THEY OCCUPIED;

(C) THE U.S. CONFIRMED THAT IT WOULD GIVE AID FOR KHMER RECONSTRUCTION.

ANNOUNCER, WHO SAID REPORT WAS BASED ON UNSPECIFIED NEWS REPORTS, ADDED THAT THE USG HAD APPARENTLY ACCEPTED THE FIRST AND THIRD CONDITIONS, BUT NOT THE SECOND. KHMER WHO HAD HEARD THE NEWS REPORT QUERIED
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FRENCH RADIO BUT WERE UNABLE TO GET FURTHER DETAILS

INCLUDING SOURCE.

2. COMMENT: FRENCH NEWSPAPERS AND WIRE SERVICES HAVE NOT PICKED UP THE BROADCAST. SOME JOURNALISTS WERE INTERESTED IN THE STORY BUT DISCOUNTED ITS ACCURACY.

3. AFP RAN A REPORT OF AN INTERVIEW WHICH SIHANOUK WAS REPORTED TO HAVE GIVEN TO A SWEDISH JOURNALIST ON SWEDISH TELEVISION JANUARY 6. SIHANOUK WAS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT HE HAD HAD SECRET COMMUNICATIONS WITH SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE GKR WHO WERE READY TO JOIN THE FUNK. SIHANOUK CITED SIRIK-MATAK AND GENERAL SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ. SIHANOUK SAID THAT THE WAY ONE COULD RESOLVE THE KHMER POLITICAL PROBLEM THROUGH RECONCILIATION WOULD BE TO DISSOLVE THE ILLEGAL PHNOM PENH GOVERNMENT, WHOSE MEMBERS (WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE RIGHTIST TRAITORS) COULD JOIN THE FUNK. HE NOTED THAT THE AMERICANS, NOTABLY KISSINGER, WERE AN OBSTACLE TO THE PEACEFUL SOLUTION IN CAMBODIA. SIHANOUK ADMITTED THAT THE KHMERS ROUGES HAVE NOT YET APPROVED HIS PROPOSALS.

4. ON JANUARY 7 FRENCH TELEVISION PRESENTED EXTRACTS OF AN INTERVIEW WITH SIHANOUK IN WHICH THE LATTER SAID THAT CHOU ENLAI HAD TOLD THE AMERICANS THAT THE ONLY WAY TO ARRIVE AT A RECONCILIATION IN CAMBODIA WAS FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE LON NOL GOVERNMENT TO ASK SIHANOUK'S PARDON. HIS REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT WAS READY TO WELCOME THEM. HE COULD ENLARGE HIS GOVERNMENT TO INCLUDE SOME MEMBERS OF THE RIGHT, BUT NOT THOSE MEMBERS OF THE RIGHT WHO HAD MADE A FORTUNE FROM THEIR POSITION WITHIN THE RIGHT.
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